THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government has announced detailed guidelines for auction and allotment of spectrum for 3G telecom services on 1st August, 2008 and certain amendments on 11st September, 2008. As per the guidelines, any person (i) who holds a UAS/CMTS licence: of (ii) (a) who has previous experience of running 3G telecom Services: and (b) gives an undertaking to obtain Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) as per Department of Telecommunications guidelines dated 14.12.2005 before starting telecom operations, can bid for 3G spectrum. The Ministry of Finance has desired that the auction of 3G Spectrum be conducted by January, 2009 and the full amount deposited in the exchequer by February, 2009. The amount which would be realized from the auction shall e known only after the auction process is complete.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The proposal to levy annual spectrum charges for stand alone 3G operators will be finalized shortly.

Scheme for urban transport planning

*142. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is likely to launch a Rs. 152 crore scheme for urban transport planning to encourage states to upgrade public transport systems which are crumbling in most cities including the Metros;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry's programme that is aimed at promoting eco-friendly, safe, comfortable and affordable public transport would push cities to take up studies to prepare detailed project reports after comprehensive and thorough evaluation of alternate technologies;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has already started studies in this regard; and

(d) if so, by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) A new centrally sponsored scheme of Urban Transport Planning has been launched by the Government from August, 2008 to provide central financial assistance to States/Urban Local Bodies, (ULBs) upto 80% total cost for taking up various traffic and transportation studies etc. and upto 50% of the total cost for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The estimated cost of the scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan including State/Urban Local Bodies share is Rs. 124.70 crore. The Scheme covers a wide gamut of urban transport planning matters for promoting comprehensive urban mobility plan integrating land-use and transport, preparation of Detailed Projects Reports (DPRs), Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) studies, Intelligent Transport System (ITS) studies, launching of awareness campaign etc. in line with the National

Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), 2006. The objective of this scheme is to guide and facilitate implementation of NUTP right form the initial planning stage. Some proposals have been received from States/ULBs only recently under the new scheme. However, no proposal has been approved yet.

National urban poor fund

*143. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is setting up a National Urban Poor Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose behind it;

(c) whether the master plans had neglected the needs of the informal sector, which engages 92 per cent of the total workforce in cities and towns, especially in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Guidelines of the sub-mission of Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), launched on 3rd December 2005, envisage the establishment of Basic Services to the Urban Poor Fund at the State level. The Guidelines envisage that wherever state Level Nodal Agency releases Central and State funds to the implementing agencies as soft loan or grant-cum-loan, it would ensure that at least 10 per cent of the funds released are recovered and ploughed into a revolving fund. This fund would be utilized to meet operation and maintenance expenses of the assets created under the sub-mission. At the end of the Mission period, the Revolving, Fund may be graduated to State Basic Services to the Urban Poor Fund.

Mandatory reforms given in the guidelines for Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) also provide for the internal earmarking within Urban Local Body (ULB) budgets for basic services to the urban poor. The Government of India has addressed State Governments for earmarking at least 25 per cent of municipal budget for the purpose, eventually leading to the creation of a Basic Services to the Urban Poor Fund at the ULB level.

In the background of the funds to be established at the State and ULB levels for provision of basic services to the urban poor, a Basic Services to the Urban Poor fund is contemplated at the national level, seeking support of multilateral and bilateral agencies. The objective of this fund is to provide financial support for basic minimum amenities like water supply and sanitation for the urban poor/slum-dwellers in a time-bound manner.

(c) to (e) The Master plans of cities and towns across the country, in general, have not kept pace with the growth in the informal urban economy and of urban poor needs. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Renewal Mission (JNNURM), provides for the earmarking at least